

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06332 270328Z

17

ACTION EA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4159

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 6332

FOR LEO MOSER, EA/ANP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC (COMBE, DAVID AND CAHILL, GEOFFREY)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY ALP SECRETARY COMBE

REF: CANBERRA 6302

1. REFTEL REPORTS SCHEDULED ARRIVAL OF ALP FEDERAL SECRETARY, DAVID COMBE, AND ALP SECRETARY FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, GEOFFREY CAHILL. COMBE PLANS TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA DAY AFTER CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS, NOV 6, WHILE CAHILL WANTS TO STAY IN U.S. TILL NOVEMBER 10. FULLER DETAILS ON COMBE AND CAHILL PROGRAM BEING SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DEPT WILL BE PREPARING THEIR PROGRAM RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS INSTITUTE. COMBE HAS NO HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR WASHINGTON AND ASSUMES HE WILL BE MET ON ARRIVAL AND TAKEN TO HOTEL. WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW NAME OF HIS PROGRAM OFFICER.

3. IN ORGANIZING PROGRAM, MIGHT BE WELL TO BEAR IN MIND THAT COMBE, IN PARTICULAR, IS CONVINCED THAT POLITICAL TECHNIQUES IN USE IN U.S. CAMPAIGNS (E.G.), USE OF MEDIA FOR PUBLICITY, COMPUTER ELECTORAL ANALYSIS) ARE NATURAL MODELS FOR ADAPTATION AND USE IN AUSTRALIA AND WANTS OPPORTUNITY TO SEE ACTUAL USE OF SUCH TECHNIQUES.

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4. EA/ANP MIGHT WISH TO SCHEDULE A FEW APPOINTMENTS
IN DEPT FOR COMBE AND CAHILL. BOTH ARE OUTSPOKEN AND
FRANK AND ARE WILLING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FULLY AND
DIRECTLY. THEY KNOW THE AUSTRALIAN SCENE VERY WELL.
GREEN

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